

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,
ORISSA, 95-SAHEEDNAGAR,
BHUBANESWAR-751 007,
April 28, 1978.

S. MOHAPATRA

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4. THE BRONZEWINGED JACANA *METOPIDIUS INDICUS*
(LATHAM) IN SAURASHTRA AT JAMNAGAR

In a communication from Jamnagar, Saurashtra, Shri Lalsinhbhai Raol writes to report the first ever record of a Bronzewinged Jacana in the Saurashtra peninsula. He writes:

'There is a fairly big reservoir in Jamnagar City. Egrets, herons, storks, ibises, stilts, Red-wattled and Yellow-wattled Lapwings and wintering ducks and waders can be seen here.

On 6th March 1977 I noticed an unusual bird on a small islet in the lake. Examining it through field glasses I was thrilled to find a bird familiar from looking at the illustration in my "Sálim Ali", but an addition to my life-list.

If my memory of our notes compared does not fail me, this species is uncommon in mainland Gujarat, but has never been recorded from Saurashtra. Dharmakumarsinhji lists it in the supplement for Birds of Gujarat in his

book BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA, and does not include it in his Saurashtra bird descriptions.'

Sálim Ali & S. Dillon Ripley in the *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN*, Vol. 2, say that the species is absent from western Punjab and western Rajasthan. However, there are records of this bird from Kutch (Humayun Abdulali, *JBNHS* 40: 122) seen at the Hemissar Tank in June 1937. Dr. Sálim Ali in *THE BIRDS OF KUTCH* (1945) describes its status in Kutch as "Resident (or local migrant?). Uncommon", and in 'The birds of Gujarat' (*JBNHS* 52: 413) states that though no specimens have been collected it has been noted at Bhuj (Kutch) also by Humayun Abdulali in June (*ibid.* 40: 122) and several places in Gujarat in vegetation-covered tanks and jheels, but that it is decidedly uncommon.

C/O. WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-INDIA,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY-400 023,
August 25, 1977.

LAVKUMAR KHACHER